

TOWN OF SIMMESPORT

MAYOR LESLIE DRAPER III

DISTRICT I
TED TURNER



DISTRICT II
KENNETH MARSH

DISTRICT III
MYRON K. BROWN

DISTRICT IV
SHERMAN BELL

ALDERMAN AT LARGE
JACOB COCO

April 8, 2019 Regular Town Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Simmesport held at the Simmesport Town Hall on Monday, April 8, 2018, at 6:00 p.m.

Presiding: Mayor Leslie Draper

Members Present: Ted Turner, Myron Brown, Kenneth Marsh, Jacob Coco, Sherman Bell

Members Absent: None

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Draper and was opened with a prayer given by Alderman Myron Brown followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Coco that the agenda be amended to include the curfew ordinance and the LCDBG Grant. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Bell and seconded by Alderman Brown to accept the minutes from the last meeting. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried.

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A motion was made by Alderman Turner and seconded by Alderman Coco to pay the bills. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried.

DELEGATION TIME:

A citizen complained to the council about a local establishment. The citizen said there are always people standing around in the parking lot playing loud music from their cars. He (the citizen) said he was concerned about possible drug dealing at the establishment. He also stated that he was concerned innocent people could be hurt. The citizen asked the council to shut down the establishment.

Eric Street from Brilliant Efficiencies made a presentation to the council on how they could finance new water meters for the town. The town was presented with two options for leasing the meters. Brilliant Efficiencies would require the Town of Simmesport to put aside a monthly use fee of \$3.05 cents per meter per month but does not include replacement of meters once the 15-year warranty period has expired. Option two requires that \$4.09 per meter per month be put aside in an account for the first 20 years and \$1.81 per meter per month thereafter, but includes full replacement of a meter that fails after the 15-year warranty has expired. In either case, the Town of Simmesport has the option to pass the monthly charge on to the customer or take it out of existing revenues. Under this lease-type system of financing the Town can pay off the cost of the meters at any time, there is zero up-front cost to the town, and does not affect our bond rating. The meters in this project would be ultrasonic, wireless meters that are read by driving by the meters with a laptop or tablet. During discussions the fact that Simmesport's meters are, in general very old. Because of this, a lot of water use is not being recorded so customers can expect an increase in their bills when the new meters are put in. How much this increase would be depends on how much water each customer uses.

Mayor Draper also informed the council that the public hearing for the Curfew Ordinance was scheduled for April 22, 2019 at 5:30 PM.

The Mayor also updated the Council on the animal control officer and the kennels being built next to the sewer treatment plant. Work is on pace to have a roof over the kennels and food and water bowls have been purchased along with donations from the Humane Society.

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The Mayor also informed the council that the 2016-2017 audit is complete and the auditors are ready to report to the council its findings. The council agreed to hold a special meeting to receive the audit findings on April 11, 2019. The Mayor also wanted to inform the Council and general public about what his administration has been through. Mayor Draper said the following:

“This administration inherited a cesspool of ill practices and a long list of missing items. It’s a cloud over this administration to be in 2019 and waiting on the 2016 audit. We had to renegotiate nearly every contract and agreement the town was engaged in. That’s including unpaid bills, taxes, bonds, etc. dating back as far as 2015. This has put an enormous unnecessary burden on this administration. But we have satisfied the ills with good practices by putting appropriate corrective actions in place that satisfies audit prerequisites. We’ve place across the spectrum systems of accountability. We’ve spent the last two years correcting past problems and maintaining the day-to-day operations. We’ve done more with less. We’re moving forward in the right direction. Thank God!”

Jeremy Hebron, the representative for Meyer & Meyer Engineers, gave an update on the LCDBG Grant. He told the Council that the grant application was due in June but in order for us to apply sever things had to be done in advance. First, the Council had to approve the Mayor to be the executive administrator for the grant, the Town had to adopt a procurement policy, and the Council had to authorize the Mayor to contract professional services that may be required for the projects funded by the grant.

A motion was made by Alderman Coco and seconded by Alderman Bell to appoint Mayor Draper as the executive administrator for the LCDBG Grant. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	X	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	X	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	X	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	X	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	X	_____	_____

The motion was carried.

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A motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Coco to adopt a procurement policy as required by the LCDBG Grant. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	<u>X</u>	_____	_____

The motion was carried.

A motion was made by Alderman Coco and seconded by Alderman Turner to allow Mayor Draper to acquire all professional services required for the LCDBG Grant. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	<u>X</u>	_____	_____

The motion was carried.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Alderman Marsh and seconded by Alderman Bell to adjourn. All present voted as follows:

	FOR	AGAINST	ABSENT
Alderman Bell	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Brown	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Coco	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Marsh	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Alderman Turner	<u>X</u>	_____	_____

The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned.

Leslie Draper III
Mayor

Dacia Adams
Town Clerk